Plant	Number of VRS						
	Executive			Non-Excutive			
	Works	Non-Works	Total	Works	Non-Works	Total	Grant Total
Managing Training Institute (MTI)	0	5	31	0	3	3	8
Corporate Office (CO)	0	31	31	0	13	13	44
Growth Division Calcutta (GD-Cal)	15	0	15	0	0	0	15
Total	1096	926	2022	6576	5019	11595	13617

Revival of Steel Industry

1190. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Steel Industry is not doing well;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are Government's plans to revive this infrastructure industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) The steel industry in India has been facing a sluggish growth due to slow down in steel consuming sectors for the last few years. This sluggishness is attributable to the following factors:—

(i) Overall economic slow down in the country;

(ii) Cost escalation in input materials for steel industry;

(iii) Arrival of cheaper imports;

(iv) Dumping of finished steel by CIS and other countries;

(v) Adverse condition in export market for steel; and

(vi) Decrease in domestic and international prices of Steel.

(c) The Steel producers and the Government have taken several steps to overcome the difficulties in the steel sector. These include:—

To boost the demand and consumption of steel, the Devleopment Commissioner for Iron and Steel (DCI&S) has launched a National Campaign for increasing the demand for steel, especially in non-traditional sectors, such as, rural and agrobased industrial sector.

The rationalisation of customs duty structure and 10% Surcharge on Basic Custom Duty proposed in the Budget of 1999-2000 has marginally increased the import duty on certain finish steel items. This is expected to provide some relief from cheap imports of steel.

— Anti dumping duty on Hot Rolled coils imported from Ukraine and Russia has been notified.

— Government has announced floor prices on certain finished steel items including seconds and defectives with a view of restrict their imports at very low prices which was adversely affecting the domestic market.

— Rationalisation of Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) rates for steel exports have been carried out to boost exports.

— A 'Steel Exporters Forum' has been set up to help steel exporters to overcome bottlenecks in exports.

— Main producers are orienting product mix to suit the market requirements and adjusting production in tune with change in the market demand.

— Producers are developing and nourishing long term customer relationship by entering into MOUs/supply arrangement with the customers.

— The steel producers have taken steps to reduce costs and improve techno-economic parameters.